

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

RED CROSS WORK IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR EDITOR: Allow me to correct an error made in the letter department of the October JOURNAL, headed "Recognition of the Work of Southern Nurses." Red Cross nurses arrived in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, May 3, exactly nine days, instead of nearly two weeks, after the tornado. Furthermore we consider the work of Hattiesburg physicians, King's Daughters, citizens, and New Orleans nurses, all done in the *Red Cross spirit*, therefore it was hardly necessary to make any personal mention.

Troy, N. Y.

ANNA M. BEADLE.

HOT SPONGING IN FEVERS

DEAR EDITOR: I would be glad if any of your readers who now use hot sponging instead of cold to reduce temperatures would kindly tell me at what temperature they use the water. I had an enteric patient whom I sponged with very hot water and afterwards rubbed over with spirits of wine. The result was a slight drop in temperature which was maintained for about eight hours. The kidneys which were sluggish acted after the sponge, the patient slept, and said she felt more comfortable and much less tired than after a cold sponge. I would be very grateful for any information on this point.

A NURSE IN INDIA.

THE GRADED REGISTRY

DEAR EDITOR: The question of who shall or shall not look after the poor and middle class sick in our communities will hardly be answered by the "Graded Registry" suggested by Miss Erickson. A nearer solution will be when nurses are compensated for their services as the members of other professions, for the individual case based upon the financial standing of the patient. Emphasizing a stated weekly stipend only helps to place nursing on the level of a trade. When the conditions suggested prevail generally then the graduate can give her services for

the care of the sick poor and not work a hardship either upon herself or those who may be dependent upon her. In connection with charity work let it be said that the position of the trained nurse is not the same as the members of other professions, in that her earning capacity, except from the case she is nursing, is at a standstill when she is busy. If, perchance, her service be gratuitous, she still has her living expenses to be met and these of necessity must be taken from her own pocket.

I certainly do recommend the sliding scale; one that slides up as well as down. I see no reason why a nurse should not receive a substantial fee from a wealthy patient for nursing him through, let us suppose, pneumonia. Not at the rate of \$25 a week for four or six weeks, amounting to \$100 or \$150, but \$500 or \$1000 for the case regardless of the time that it takes her to nurse him back to health. When this is done the nurse can easily afford to care for the sick poor at little or no monetary return and besides the burden of nursing the sick poor will be placed upon those able to bear it and where it belongs, the moneyed class.

LOUIE CROFT BOYD, R.N.

THE NURSE AS AN ANÆSTHETIST

DEAR EDITOR: Having read the article entitled "The Nurse as an Anæsthetist" by Dr. J. M. Baldy, I ask for information as to where a nurse may receive training as an anæsthetist. A. H.

["I have had several similar letters to the one you send me and am at a loss to know just what to say in answer.

"At present there is no place to my knowledge where a nurse or anyone else could apply for a training in anæsthesia. As we all know the whole subject of anæsthesia is in a most deplorable condition and my remarks in my address to the American Gynæcological Society last spring were made in hopes of starting an active discussion of the whole matter and of eventually bringing about an improved condition of affairs. My appeal was to the medical profession and to hospital managers, incidentally pointing out to them a good source from which to draw material, a source from which I have myself drawn most successfully, at the Gynæcean Hospital.

"Reforms come slowly and I had no hopes of a different result in this case. I do not believe an immediate and active demand will be created and possibly when the reform comes, as it surely will in time, other sources than the nursing profession may be drawn upon.

"In any event I am most pleased with the interest that has been